

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 764 - SB 719

March 13, 2021

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Removes antiquated statute enacted by the federal Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act of 1935. Renames the Tennessee State Soil Conservation Committee as the Tennessee Soil and Water Conservation Commission. Makes various changes to the election process for Commission members. Adds one ex-officio member to the Commission. Revises the duties and powers of the Commission and the election process for soil conservation district supervisors. Requires such districts to place greater emphasis on soil erosion and its impact on water quality. Removes authority of districts to issue land use regulations. Deletes language referring to soil conservation associations.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS (004801, 004852): Amendment 004801 adds language to the original bill that establishes that a duly organized local soil conservation district in existence on the effective date of this legislation continues to exist as a soil and water conservation district, and supervisors of a district serving on such effective date continue to serve as supervisors until the expiration of their terms.

Amendment 004852 deletes and replaces language in the original bill such that the only substantive change reduces the required meetings that the Commission must conduct from four meetings to two; however, it urges the Commission to strive to conduct four meetings per year.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENTS:

Unchanged from the original fiscal note.

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- This legislation, by and large, updates antiquated statute and modernizes the policies governing the newly entitled Tennessee Soil and Water Conservation Commission.
- Based on information provided by the Department of Agriculture (DOA), there is no record that any soil conservation district has ever adopted any land use regulations, as referenced in the legislation.

- Based on information provided by the DOA, there is no know impact to state or local government for removing language referring to soil conservation associations.
- Adding one ex-officio member to the Commission could result in an increase in state expenditures.
- Based on information provided by the Department of Agriculture, any increase in state expenditures to cover travel expenses shall be minimal, as much of the Commission's work will continue to be done virtually
- It is assumed that this legislation will have no effect on the number of times the Commission meets per year.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bojan Savic". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bojan Savic, Interim Executive Director

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